

## Eisenhower Backs President in Crisis

By The Associated Press

GETTYSBURG, Pa., Oct. 23 — Dwight D. Eisenhower called on all Americans tonight to assist President Kennedy in the present crisis. But he also urged Republicans to press their campaign to win in the Nov. 6 elections.

"For though we support the President in foreign crisis," the former President said, "we do not have to support him when he speaks or acts as head of a political party; and indeed we do not."

General Eisenhower also said that "we are free to ask and to learn how we arrived at our present state, even in foreign affairs."

And when the present crisis has passed into history, he asserted, "it will be entirely proper then to examine and analyze and criticize decisions and ac-

tions taken." In remarks at a rally of Adams County Republicans at Gettysburg College, General Eisenhower said:

"We meet in the aftermath of a grave message of the President of the United States. The decision he announced last night may seriously affect the lives of all Americans and the future of the republic."

"In the circumstances of this present time, as described by him, the decision had to be made. It had to be resolutely renounced by the one man who speaks for us all in critical foreign affairs."

"As in all crises, America — as a unit — follows her constitutional leader. We must pledge him our help in whatever way we can be of help."

The decision to which he referred was the selective blockade and other measures announced by Mr. Kennedy to halt what he labeled a build-up of Soviet offensive power in Cuba, menacing the Americas.

General Eisenhower said:

"So far as Cuba and Soviet Russia are concerned, in the weeks ahead we cannot be partisans. But a united America need not and should not degenerate into a conformist, a silenced America. In our internal affairs, unity should not become an excuse for compliant submission by Republicans or a shield against our valid criticism of Democrats."

"Moreover, our civic duty impels us to express our honest convictions, in this campaign, about the complexion of the next Congress; about the quality of leadership we want in state governments and in our home counties and communities."

"The republic of the United States — the oldest Constitutional Government among the major nations of the world — has survived war and the peril of war because the American people through their elected representatives in the Congress have always been free to advise and counsel — even to rebuke and warn — the Executive."

"Therein lies the fundamental strength of our system. Never has catastrophe nor emergency justified reduction of the people to a dumbed herd or of their representatives to blind acceptance of decree and pronouncement by government."

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